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purge

purslane



Purple Heart

in grace must expiate their sins. 2. A place or condition of suffering, expiation, or remorse. — *adj.* Tending to cleanse or purge. [ME *purgatorie* < OFr. *purgatoire* < Med.Lat. *purgatorium* < LLat., means of purgation < neut. of *purgatorius*, 'cleansing' < Lat. *purgare*, to cleanse. See *PURGE*.]

purge (pûr) *v.* **purged, purg·ing, purg·es.** — *tr.* 1. a. To free from impurities; purify. b. To remove (impurities and other elements) by or as if by cleansing. 2. To rid of sin, guilt, or defilement. 3. *Law.* To clear (a person) of a charge or an imputation. Often used with respect to contempt of court. 4. a. To rid (a nation, for example) of people considered undesirable. b. To get rid of (people considered undesirable). 5. *Medic.* a. To cause evacuation of (the bowels or stomach). b. To induce evacuation of the bowels or stomach in (an individual). — *intr.* 1. To become pure or clean. 2. *Medic.* To undergo or cause an emptying of the bowels or stomach. — *n.* 1. The act or process of purging. 2. Something that purges, esp. a medicinal purgative. [ME *purgen* < OFr. *purgier* < Lat. *purgare* < *pûrus*, pure. See *peu·s*.] — *purg'er n.*

pur·l (pûr'l) *n.* Var. of *poorl*.

pur·ri·fi·ca·tion (pyûr'î-fî-kā'shən) *n.* The act or an instance of cleansing or purifying.

pur·ri·fi·ca·tor (pyûr'î-fî-kā'tôr) *n.* *Eccles.* A cloth used to clean the chalice after the celebration of the Eucharist.

pur·ri·fy (pyûr'î-fî) *v.* **-fied, -fy·ing, -fies.** — *tr.* 1. To rid of impurities; cleanse. 2. To rid of foreign or objectionable elements. 3. To free from sin, guilt, or other defilement. — *intr.* To become clean or pure. [ME *purifien* < OFr. *purifier* < Lat. *purificare*: *pûrus*, clean; see *PUR* + *-ficare*, -fy.] — **pur·ri·fi·ca·to·ry** (pyûr'î-fî-kā-tôr'î, -tôr'î) *adj.* — **pur·ri·fi·er n.**

Pur·im (pûr'im, pûr-rêm') *n.* *Judaism.* The 14th of Adar, observed in celebration of the delivery by Esther of the Persian Jews from massacre. [Heb. *pûrim*, pl. of *pûr*, lot (from the lots Haman cast to decide the day of the massacre, Esther 9:24–26) < Akkadian *pûru*, lot.]

pur·ine (pyûr'î-n) *n.* 1. A crystalline organic base, C₅H₄N₄, that is the parent compound of various biologically important derivatives. 2. Any of a group of organic compounds derived from or structurally related to purine, including uric acid and the nucleic acid constituents adenine and guanine. [Ger. *Purin* < Lat. *pûrus*, clean; see *PUR* + NLat. *uricus*, *uricum*, uric (< Gk. *urôn*, urine) + *-in*, *n.* suff. (< Fr. *-ine*; see *-in*).]

pur·ism (pyûr'î-z'm) *n.* 1. Strict observance of or insistence on traditional correctness, esp. of language. 2. An example of purism.

pur·ist (pyûr'îst) *n.* One who practices or urges strict correctness, esp. in the use of words. — **pur·is'tic** (pyûr'îst'îk) *adj.* — **pur·is'ti·cal·ly adv.**

Pur·ri·tan (pyûr'î-t'n) *n.* 1. A member of a group of English Protestants who in the 16th and 17th centuries advocated strict religious discipline and simplification of the ceremonies and creeds of the Church of England. 2. *puritan.* One who lives in accordance with strict religious or moral precepts, esp. one who regards pleasure as sinful. — *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the Puritans or Puritanism. 2. *puritan.* Characteristic of a puritan; puritanical. [LLat. *pûritās*, purity < Lat. *pûrus*, pure. See *peu·s*.]

pur·ri·tan·i·cal (pyûr'î-tān'î-kəl) *adj.* 1. Rigorous in religious observance; marked by stern morality. 2. *Puritanical.* Of, relating to, or characteristic of the Puritans. — **pur·ri·tan'î·cal·ly adv.** — **pur·ri·tan'î·cal·ness n.**

Pur·ri·tan·ism (pyûr'î-tān'î-z'm) *n.* 1. The practices and doctrines of the Puritans. 2. *puritanism.* Scrupulous moral rigor, esp. hostility to social pleasures and indulgences.

pur·ri·ty (pyûr'î-tî) *n.* 1. The quality or condition of being pure. 2. Freedom from sin or guilt; innocence; chastity. 3. The absence in speech or writing of elements deemed inappropriate to good style. 4. *Color.* The degree to which a color is free from being mixed with other colors.

Pur·kin·je cell (pûr-kîn'jē) *n.* A large, drop-shaped, densely branching neuron that is the characteristic cell of the cerebellar cortex. [After Johannes Evangelista von Purkinje (1787–1869), Bohemian physiologist.]

Purkinje fiber *n.* One of a network of specialized cardiac muscle fibers that rapidly transmit impulses from the atrioventricular node to the ventricles.

pur·l (pûr'l) *intr.v.* **purled, purl·ing, purls.** To flow or ripple with a murmuring sound. — *n.* The sound made by rippling water. [Prob. of Scand. orig.]

pur·l also **pearl** (pûr'l) — *v.* **purled, purl·ing, purls** also **pearled, pearl·ing, pearls.** — *tr.* 1. To knit (yarn) with a purl stitch. 2. To edge or finish (a handkerchief, for example) with lace or embroidery. — *intr.* 1. To do knitting with a purl stitch. 2. To edge or finish with lace or embroidery. — *n.* 1. Inversion of a knit stitch; purl stitch. 2. A decorative edging of lace or embroidery. 3. Gold or silver wire used in embroidery. [?]

pur·leu (pûr'lî, pûr'lî) *n.* 1. An outlying or neighboring area. 2. *Purleus.* Outskirts; the environs. 3. A place one frequents. [ME *purlewe*, piece of land on the edge of a forest, prob. alteration of *porale*, *purale*, royal perambulation <

OFr. *porale* < *poraler*, to traverse: *por*, forth (< Lat. *prô*; see *PRO* -1) + *aler*, *aller*, to go; see *ALLEY*.]

pur·lin also **pur·line** (pûr'lin) *n.* One of several horizontal timbers supporting the rafters of a roof. [ME.]

pur·loin (pûr-loin', pûr'loin') *v.* **-loined, -loin·ing, -loins.** — *tr.* To steal, often in a violation of trust. — *intr.* To commit theft. [ME *purloinen*, to remove < AN *purloigner*: *pur*, away (< Lat. *prô*; see *PRO* -1) + *loign*, far (< Lat. *longē* < *longus*, long; see *del* -1).] — **pur·loin'er n.**

pur·l stitch *n.* An inverted knitting stitch, often alternated with the knit stitch to produce a ribbed effect.

pu·ro·my·cin (pyûr'î-mî'sin) *n.* An antibiotic, C₂₂H₂₉N₇O₅, obtained from the soil bacterium *Streptomyces alboniger* and used experimentally as an inhibitor of protein synthesis. [PUR(INE) + -MYCIN.]

pur·ple (pûr'pal) *n.* 1. *Color.* Any of a group of colors with a hue between that of violet and red. 2. Cloth of a color between violet and red, once a symbol of royalty or high office. 3. Imperial power; high rank. — *adj.* 1. *Color.* Of the color purple. 2. Royal or imperial; regal. 3. Elaborate and ornate. — *tr.* & *intr.v.* **-pled, -pling, -ples.** To make or become purple. [ME < OE *purpul* < *purpure*, purple garment < Lat. *purpura* < Gk. *porphura*, a shellfish yielding purple dye.]

purple grackle *n.* The common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) of eastern North America having iridescent blackish-purple plumage and a long keel-shaped tail.

pur·ple·heart (pûr'pal-hârt') *n.* 1. A tropical tree (*Peltogyne paniculata*) native to Guiana and Trinidad and having very hard durable brown wood that turns a purple color on exposure. 2. The purplish heartwood of this tree.

Pur·ple Heart (pûr'pal) *n.* A U.S. military decoration awarded to members of the armed forces wounded in action.

purple loosestrife *n.* An Old World marsh plant (*Lythrum salicaria*) having long spikes of purple flowers.

purple martin *n.* A large North American swallow (*Progne subis*) having glossy blue-black plumage and a light-colored breast in the female.

pur·plish (pûr'plish) *adj.* *Color.* Somewhat purple.

pur·port (pûr-pôrt', -pôrt') *tr.v.* **-port·ed, -port·ing, -ports.** 1. To have or present the often false appearance of being or intending; profess. 2. To have the intention of doing; purpose. — *n.* (pûr'pôrt', -pôrt'). 1. Meaning presented, intended, or implied; import. 2. Intention; purpose. [ME *purporten*, to set forth < AN *purporter*: *pur*, forth (< Lat. *prô*; see *PRO* -1) + *porter*, to carry (< Lat. *portare*; see *per* -2).]

pur·port·ed (pûr-pôrt'îd, -pôrt'î) *adj.* Assumed to be such; supposed. — **pur·port·ed·ly adv.**

pur·pose (pûr'pas) *n.* 1. The object toward which one strives or for which something exists; an aim or a goal. 2. A result or an effect that is intended or desired; an intention. See *Syns* at *Intention*. 3. Determination; resolution. 4. The matter at hand; the point at issue. — *tr.v.* **-posed, -pos·ing, -pos·es.** To intend or resolve to perform or accomplish. — *Idioms.* on **purpose.** Intentionally; deliberately. to **good purpose.** With good results. to **little (or no) purpose.** With few or no results. [ME *purpos* < AN < *purposio*, to intend: *pur*, forth (< Lat. *prô*; see *PRO* -1) + *poser*, to put; see *POS* -1.]

pur·pose·ful (pûr'pas-fəl) *adj.* 1. Having a purpose; intentional. 2. Having or manifesting purpose; determined. — **pur·pose·ful·ly adv.** — **pur·pose·ful·ness n.**

pur·pose·less (pûr'pas-lis) *adj.* Lacking a purpose; meaningless or aimless. — **pur·pose·less·ness n.**

pur·pose·ly (pûr'pas-lî) *adv.* With specific purpose.

pur·po·sive (pûr'pō-siv) *adj.* 1. Having or serving a purpose. 2. Purposeful. — **pur·po·sive·ness n.**

pur·pu·ra (pûr'pû-râ, -pyû-) *n.* A condition characterized by hemorrhages in the skin and mucous membranes that result in the appearance of purplish spots or patches. [Lat., purple. See *PURPLE*.] — **pur·pu·ric** (-pyûr'îk) *adj.*

pur·pu·rin (pûr'pyû-rîn') *n.* A reddish crystalline compound, C₁₄H₂O₂(OH)₃, used as a biological stain and commercial dye. [Lat. *purpura*, purple; see *PURPLE* + *-in*.]

purr (pûr) *n.* 1. The soft vibrant sound made by a cat. 2. A sound similar to that made by a cat. — *v.* **purred, purr·ing, purrs.** — *intr.* To make or utter a purr. — *tr.* To express by a purr. [Imit.]

purse (pûrs) *n.* 1. A woman's bag for carrying personal items; a handbag. 2. A small bag or pouch for carrying money. 3. Something that resembles a bag or pouch. 4. Available wealth or resources; money. 5. A sum of money collected as a present or offered as a prize. — *tr.v.* **pursed, purs·ing, purs·es.** To gather or contract (the lips or brow) into wrinkles or folds; pucker. [ME < OE < LLat. *bursa*. See *BURSA*.]

purs·er (pûr'sər) *n.* The officer in charge of money matters on a ship or commercial aircraft. [ME < *purse*, *purse*. See *PURSE*.]

purse seine *n.* A fishing seine that is drawn into the shape of a bag to enclose the catch.

purse strings or **purse·strings** (pûrs'strînz') *pl.n.* Financial support or resources, or control over them.

purs·lane (pûrs'lin, -lân') *n.* A trailing Asian weed (*Portulaca oleracea*) having small yellow flowers, reddish stems, and fleshy obovate edible leaves. [ME < AN **purcelane*, altera-

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